CLEAN VERSION OF AMENDMENTS

In the claims

Please amend claims 1 and 4 as follows:

1.   A method of calculating sorting costs for an incoming mail sorting apparatus having a database of addressees for use in sorting incoming mailpieces comprising the steps of:

a)   collecting information about each one of a plurality of mailpieces sorted using the incoming mail sorting apparatus, the information used to determine a type of mailpiece for each one of the plurality of mailpieces;

b)   determining the type of mailpiece using the information collected in step a);

c)   associating the information about each one of the plurality of mailpieces sorted using the incoming mail sorting apparatus with addressee information from the database of addressees;

d)   storing a piece count for each one of the plurality of mailpieces sorted using the incoming mail sorting apparatus, the piece count stored in association with corresponding addressee information from the database of addressees in the incoming mail sorting apparatus; and

e)   calculating incoming sorting cost information using the piece count stored in association with the corresponding addressee and a predetermined unit price for each type of mailpiece.

4.   A method of calculating sorting costs for an incoming mail sorting apparatus comprising the steps of:

a)   providing a data file for storage of addressee information and correlated mailpiece information, the information comprising a piece count for each type of mailpiece;

b)   reading addressee information from a mailpiece using an incoming mail sorting apparatus;

c)   correlating addressee information read from the mailpiece with addressee information data stored in the incoming mail sorting apparatus;

d)   obtaining mailpiece information regarding the mailpiece size in order to determine the mailpiece type;

e)   determining the type of mailpiece using the information regarding mailpiece size;

f)   storing the data file in the incoming mail sorting apparatus;

g)   incrementing the piece count for the type of mailpiece determined in step e); and

h)   calculating the incoming sorting cost for each mailpiece using a predetermined unit price for each type of mailpiece and the piece count for type of mailpiece.